

Accelerating Arms Transfers to Taiwan Act - Section-by-Section

As the People's Republic of China increases its assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific, Taiwan remains squarely at the center of its territorial ambitions. Furthermore, Taiwan is likely to face greater threats over the next several years as Xi Jinping looks to burnish his legacy during his unprecedented third term as Chinese Communist Party General Secretary.

Since Taiwan is the most likely flashpoint in the Indo-Pacific to involve U.S. personnel, the U.S. should seek to deter conflict. To do so, under the Taiwan Relations Act the U.S. is obliged to provide Taiwan defensive arms. Unfortunately, arms deliveries to Taiwan are substantially delayed for a variety of reasons while Taiwan has also been negligent in purchasing weapons systems with a high deterrence value. This legislation uses innovative tools to bolster Taiwan's defensive posture by increasing and accelerating arms deliveries.

Sec 1-3 Title, findings, and Sense of Congress

Sec. 4 – Authority to Prioritize Delivery of Excess Defense Articles

Implements a recommendation from the 2021 U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission to allow Taiwan receive priority delivery of excess defense articles (EDA). Under this authority, DOD grants or sells equipment it no longer needs to various countries. Right now, Taiwan behind ~30 NATO and other countries that are statutorily prioritized.

Sec. 5 – Special Defense Acquisition Fund

The Special Defense Acquisition Fund (SDAF) allows DOD to pre-purchase arms it thinks partners will need (and later buy), cutting down delivery lag times by up to two years. This section implements a recommendation from the 2021 U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission to direct DOD to use the SDAF for arms Taiwan will buy.

Sec. 6 – War Reserve Stockpile

The U.S. maintains a stockpile of munitions and other military equipment in other countries, and DOD has general authority to do so on U.S. military bases. Such authority is not applicable to Taiwan since it does not host U.S. troops. This section adds Taiwan to the list of countries that can host a stockpile that is not located on a U.S. base. Prepositioning munitions eliminates the need for delivery under contested or blockade scenarios.

Sec. 7 – Report

Requires a report on how the authorities under Sec 4-6 would or could be used as well as needs, cost, and capacity of the United States to use Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA) in a range of Taiwan scenarios. PDA has been used extensively with to deliver various arms to Ukraine, and it is likely it would be used if a threat to Taiwan were imminent.